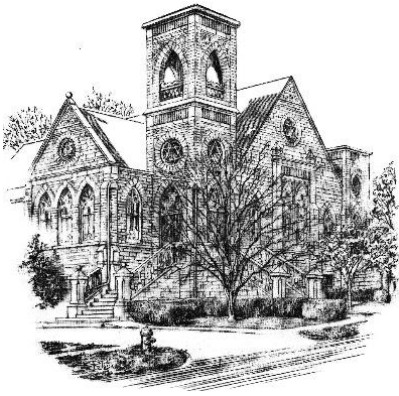




2026

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church

Education News

Christian Education: Now that school is in session, we are back at it after a brief hiatus in July from our regular Sunday school schedule. Adult and Children's SCS will meet every week following refreshments. Over the next two months, the children will be learning about prayer, building an understanding of why prayer is an essential aspect of our ongoing relationship with God, and practicing how to pray. In our classroom, we have constructed a prayer tower where each child has the opportunity to either write down or draw a picture of what they would like to lift in prayer. Our initial focus was on learning to express thankfulness to God for blessings we receive: our families, our pets, the flowers and butterflies, and the gift of love. We also lift Pastor Jimmy and Miss Melinda up in prayer, as Miss Melinda was absent from class due to illness. Also, we have started what will be a new tradition at the end of each class time: prayer circle on the rug with a lit candle in the middle representing the light of Christ. Children crafted their own personal prayer candle, which they can use at home during their prayer time, either when praying alone or with family. Of course, part of our study will be learning The Lord's Prayer, not only memorizing it but also understanding the meaning of each verse. This promises to be an exciting few months as we strengthen our foundations of faith!

You won't want to miss this: the children will sing in church on Sunday, September 13, which is also our designated Family Worship Sunday. During this time, the kids will play their 'Jesus instruments' made from gourds provided by Dan Rarey. We are very grateful for the generous donations of craft materials, books, Bibles, and storage containers, and appreciate the many ways our church family extends support to the children. Thank you and God bless.

Wisdom Beyond the Game

Basketball coach Phil Jackson, the son of a pastor, became well known not only for winning championships but also for encouraging his players to grow off the court. An avid reader, Jackson often assigned books to players that he believed would challenge and inspire them both personally and professionally.

Over the years, his teams won multiple NBA championships under his unique leadership style. Yet even great coaches have difficult seasons. During one struggling year, former NBA star Charles Barkley jokingly remarked about Jackson's reading assignments, "He needs to give that team a Bible. Only God can help them."

The ancient philosopher Heraclitus once said, “You never step into the same river twice.” He meant that change is one of the great constants of life. Still, when I am walking in the late-night humidity, it can seem that this weather pattern will last forever. But I also know that in a matter of weeks, the air will greet us with cool crispness. Change is coming. Count on it.



The change of seasons is only one of the thresholds we face. The poet John O'Donohue once said that when we face these changes, we can ask ourselves large questions: “At which threshold am I now standing? At this time in my life, what am I leaving? Where am I about to enter? What is preventing me from crossing my next threshold? What gift would enable me to do it?”

In its long and storied history, EFUMC has entered many thresholds, and others await us now. We can sense the change in the air with Children's Ministries, in continuing and new missional ventures, and in new conversations regarding grants for our church, only to name a few. Together we can ask, “What gifts would enable us to cross into the new thresholds that are presenting themselves to us?” The constant during these changes is the voice of Jesus saying, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock.” Let's go through these new doors with faith and hope.

Take good care.

Jimmy

Faith and works are like the light and heat of a candle; they cannot be separated.

—Joseph Beaumont



September's Gold Can Offering

This month's gold can offering is going to Lucille Raines Residence. It was founded in 1977 and owned and operated by the United Women in Faith of Indiana, formerly the UMW of Indiana. It is located in downtown Indianapolis in a 100 year old building that is in need of help with repairs, maintenance and upgrades, this building holds up to 49 residents. These residents are in recovery from addictions and the staff at LRR are committed to being God's instruments in lifting up and helping them to rebuild their lives by supporting them with a support network, community connections and daily time in faith activities.

Let us help them so that they may help others.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Dillon



Church Picnic Coming



Save the Date: Annual Church Picnic beginning after church on Sunday, October 4th in the large pavilion at Flatwoods Park. Please bring a dish to pass. Chicken tenders, beverage and table service will be provided. In addition to a wonderful time of fellowship and ‘good eat’in, there will be fun and games for people of all ages. Kids aged 2 to 92 can enjoy taking a whack or two at the piñata and participate in a number of other planned activities. This would be a great opportunity to invite your friends, neighbors, kids, and grands to come experience a fabulous gathering that will happen come rain or shine! Hope to see you all there!



Church Financial Report

Gold Can Contributions

June - Houses to Homes \$559.00

July - Honor Flight \$575.00

August - Habitat for Humanity

Star of David through July 31, 2026
\$24,182

Finances through July 31, 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Income:	\$84,242.00	\$90,208.00
Expenses:	\$89,407.00	\$90,208.00

Special Dates

- Labor Day, *September 7, 2026*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2026*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 13, 2026*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15-October 15, 2026*
- First Day of Autumn, *September 22, 2026*

A Prayer for Joy and Laughter

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the wit to see a joke
To get some humor out of life
And pass it on to other folk.

—Anonymous

Bible Quiz



After his resurrection, Jesus asked one of his disciples the same question three times: “Do you love me?” The disciple felt hurt, wondering why Jesus kept asking. Who was this disciple?

- A. James
- B. John
- C. Philip
- D. (Simon) Peter

Answer: D (John 21:17)

Thank God for Teachers

It is sometimes said that public school teachers do not teach values. Yet every day, countless teachers quietly model compassion, patience, integrity and kindness through the way they care for their students.

Many teachers go far beyond lesson plans and classrooms. They spend their own money on school supplies, workbooks, clothing, snacks and special needs for children who may otherwise go without. They encourage struggling students, celebrate small victories and offer steady support to children facing difficult circumstances at home.

Teachers also work with students from many different backgrounds and abilities. Some patiently help children learn English, while others devote extra time and care to students with learning, emotional or social challenges. In a world where many children face poverty, abuse, loneliness, neglect or uncertainty, a caring teacher can become a source of hope, stability and encouragement.

Many educators also serve faithfully in churches and communities, living out their faith through daily acts of love and service. Their influence often reaches far beyond what grades or test scores can measure.

As a church family, let us remember to pray for teachers, encourage them in their calling and thank God for the important difference they make in the lives of children every day.

Prayer of Remembrance for Patriots Day

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation.

Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities.

Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen



The Communicator

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, Inc.

803 W. Temperance St.
P.O. Box 548
Ellettsville, IN 47429

Worship	9:30am
Fellowship	10:30am
Adult Sunday School	10:45am
Office Hours:	M, W, F 9am-12pm
Church Phone:	812-876-4792
Email:	efumchurch@bluemarble.net
Webpage:	http://www.efumchurch.org

September 2026

